

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method of reducing the viscosity of a viscosified treatment fluid comprising contacting the viscosified treatment fluid with an acid generated from an orthoester composition that comprises an orthoester. In another embodiment, the present invention provides a method of reducing the pH of a viscosified treatment fluid comprising providing an orthoester composition that comprises an orthoester; contacting the viscosified treatment fluid with the orthoester composition; allowing the orthoester to generate a generated acid; and allowing the generated acid to at least partially reduce the pH of the viscosified treatment fluid. Embodiments of fracturing and gravel packing methods also are disclosed.